

## **Town Administrator's Report**

**March 11, 2014**

The issues and areas on which we have been working are as follows:

- **University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute grant proposal for a study of shorelines and docks on Madeline Island.**

We have reviewed, evaluated, commented and discussed the pre-proposal and final proposal of Mr. Gene Clark, to conduct a study of shoreline erosion, using Madeline Island as a primary test site. Mr. Clark, the Sea Grant Coastal Engineer, has requested a letter of support from the Town. Based on a thoroughgoing review, correspondence with Mr. Clark and a meeting with Mr. Clark – which attempted to rectify some clearly bias assumptions – the proposed study remains overly invasive as it relates to private property and private property owners – bias against historically effective dock structures – staffed with government agency personnel rather than purely objective scientists, engineers and researchers - and designed to advance the interests and agendas of government agencies rather than reveal fair and objective data.

The matter is taken up in the Town Board Agenda (3-11) – a draft letter of objection will be considered.

- **Succession Issues related to the La Pointe Police Department.**

With the retirement of the Police Chief, issues of succession, including the search for and selection of the next Chief have been brought into specific focus. Passions exist on all sides of the issue and, doubtless, will be reflected in how the process of filling that position unfolds. It is a matter that will be taken up in the Town Board Agenda (3-11)

- **Volunteer vs Employee Issues**

Meetings, discussions, research and potential proposals to rectify an untenable situation are underway and advancing in a collaborative fashion. There is a clear understanding of the challenge we collectively must confront, but there is an equally clear understanding that the resolution will developed cooperatively and collaboratively. Early feelings of contention

have given way to an understanding of the problem and a determination to find a fair and equitable solution that meets the needs and expectations of all those involved and/or concerned.

- **Zoning Issues – Ramifications of Hegwood and Town Response**

The Town continues to work closely with Ashland County to resolve issues and problems that have come from the Appellate Court ruling. A public hearing on the proposed shoreland permit moratorium is set for 3-14.

Institution of a long-range resolution is in the offing.

- **Winter Transportation Committee**

An organizational meeting was held during which the size of the committee, configuration and authority were held and were exceptionally productive.

The Town Board will take up appointments and enactment of the enabling Resolution as an Agenda item (3-11)

- **Follow-up and endgame work on the Boating Improvement Grant**

(BIG). The grant would facilitate the construction of a Transient Docking Pier at the foot of Middle Road. The proposal (developed by Smith Group JJR) was received by the Harbor Committee for evaluation and approval. A Memorandum of Understanding, regarding the acquisition of approximately 15 – 25 feet of adjacent property, contingent on receiving the grant, is in discussion. A decision on the grant is anticipated in late-April or early-May. The project would be scheduled for 2015.

- **3-Year Harbor Plan**

A draft Plan has been assembled – largely a reiteration of the 2013 Plan – and will be evaluated and considered for approval by Harbor Committee prior to submission to the Town Board – the schedule of approvals meets the requirement that the Plan be submitted by April 1.

- **Outreach and Community Conversation**

The ongoing effort to communicate with and seek the thoughts, ideas, concerns, advice and advisement of members of the community continues unabated.